rules over fourteen millions of whom thirteen millions are Hindu, but the state is a Muslim state. The Court language is Urdu and it is also the medium of instruction, though it is not the language of the people. In Bhopal the same conditions hold good. There 89 per cent, of the population are Hindus. Kashmir has a Hindu ruler with a predominantly Muslim population. Its agrarian grievances recently led to considerable disturbances and the peasants actually gained some redress.

There are more than 6,000 states of varying importance. Hyderabad and Mysore are as large as a major European country; others are tiny, little more than "squirearchies." Bilbari has a population of 27 and an annual revenue of Rs.So! There are some who wish to perpetuate these vestiges of an ancient civilisation, as a kind of Indian Ulster of federal India, acting as a permanent check on progress. As the President of the States' Peoples Conference remarked in 1936, "they constitute an underworld, the secrets of which would take years to unravel and decades to obliterate." But sooner or later they must disappear. As Mr. Thompson remarks in the review article quoted above, that, while the Princes are clamouring for their sovereign rights, it is not explained why British India "ought to go forward to complete self-government, but the people of native India remain pawns in the all-important game of preserving their rulers' status unimpaired."

When the political settlement was made, the Princes stood for nationalism in India. The most independent of them went under, But to-day "they are feudalism's last stronghold." "They are no more princes than the Japanese Samurai were or our own British barons in Henry VIIFs time* Paramountcy is based on British strength—not treaties." There was a time when the princes were known for their chivalry and courage and independence and in